

This Congressional declaration will be urged by many as a reason for refusing to grant another appropriation, and will, without doubt, have weight with many members of Congress, and may be the means of defeating the effort we purpose making in behalf of our schools. Hence, at the close of the current fiscal year—i. e., June 30, 1900—we may be confronted with the problem, what is to be done to maintain the twenty-five contract schools now in operation with their 2,000 Indian pupils? Even now these schools are able to maintain their present attendance only by reason of the fact that Rev. Mother Katharine Drexel, O. S. B., has supplemented the Government appropriations by contributions from her private funds, thereby enabling the schools to care for a large number of pupils in excess of the number paid for by the Government. This aid, however, cannot be expected to go on forever; Indeed, it may cease at the end of this year. At all events this burden should not be imposed upon any individual; it should be borne by the Church at large.

This brings me to the consideration of the Annual Collection for Indian and Negro Missions. The results from this collection, as is well known, have been comparatively meagre, and totally inadequate to meet the needs of the Indian schools in the event of their being deprived of assistance from the Government. It therefore, I submit, behooves those charged with the administration of Catholic Indian Mission affairs to take steps at an early day to devise ways and means to raise the funds required to prevent the closing of our contract schools. Heretofore I have brought this all-important question to the attention of Your Eminence and Your Graces, and also of the Most Rev. Archbishops at their annual meetings in Washington, and in this crisis in the life of these schools once more I beg leave to urge that it receive your careful, earnest consideration.

The present method of collecting money for the Indian